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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR UN
SUBJ: ARTICLE ON U.N. AGENCIES IN GENEVA AND VIENNA

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY ANTOINE BOSSHARD, APPEARED IN THE

JOURNAL DE GENEVE FOR DEC 11/12 UNDER THE HEADLINE: QUOTE THE QUESTION OF THE TRANSFER OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS -- GENEVA - VIENNA: THE SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE PUT OUT UNQUOTE:

2. QUOTE THE SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE AT THE SAME TIME PUT OUT AND MADE UNEASY BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE QUESTION

OF THE MOVE OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF U. N. ORGANS FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA,

WHERE A LARGE COMPLEX IS BEING BUILT ON THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE: THIS IS THE IMPRESSION ONE GAINS ONE MONTH AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT BY SECY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM ON THE SUBJECT AND A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK MONDAY OF THE 5TH COMMISSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS) WHOSE TASK IT IS TO EXAMINE THIS CONTROVERSIAL TEXT.

3. QUOTE: A YEAR AGO, IN FACT, ATTENTION WAS KEEN IN GENEVA WHERE A REPORT BY MR. WALDHEIM PROPOSED THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT UNITED NATIONS ORGANS FROM GENEVA TO VIENNA: ECE, UNCTAD, THE DIVISION OF NARCOTICS ETC. THE 5TH COMMITTEE THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE SECY GENERAL PUT OFF THE QUESTION UNTIL
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1976 AND MAKE NEW PROPOSALS. BESIDES, CONCERTATION SHOULD BE

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MAINTAINED AMONG THE AMERICAN, SWISS AND AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO AVOID SHOCKS AND TO INNER QUOTE HARMONIZE END INNER QUOTE THE ENTIRE MOVING PROCESS. NOW, 12 MONTHS LATER, THE SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING A TRIPLE DISCOVERY: ON THE ONE HAND, DESPITE THE AUSTRO-SWISS NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THE WALDHEIM PROJECT CONTAINS PROPOSITIONS WHICH HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAD BEEN RAISED BILATERALLY: WHAT WAS THE STUPEFACTION IN BERN AND GENEVA, (FOR EXAMPLE) ON LEARNING THAT MR. KURT WALDHEIM HAD SUGGESTED ON NOV 11 THE MOVE TO VIENNA OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD) AND THE OFFICE OF THE U.N. DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR, OF WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO QUESTION*

4. QUOTE BETTER STILL: AUSTRIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD HAVE SPREAD THE IDEA IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT ARE THE FRUIT OF CONCERTATION AMONG INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS;

5. QUOTE FINALLY, IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT AS IN THAT OF 1975, THE FIGURES PRESENTED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK APPEAR STRONGLY SUBJECT TO CAUTION: WHAT VALUE DO THESE KINDS OF PROJECTIONS HAVE, GIVEN THE STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, WHEN INFLATION IN AUSTRIA IS ABOUT 8 PER CENT FOR 1976; WHEN THE OVERVALUATION OF THE FRANC IS NOT AT ALL ASSURED FOR THE YEARS TO COME, WHEN IT IS MOST DIFFICULT TO LOOK AHEAD BEYOND TWO TO THREE YEARS AT THE MAXIMUM? BECAUSE WHO CAN PROVE TO US THAT INFLATION WON'T BE GALLOPING TOMORROW, INCREASING BY SO MUCH THE COST OF THIS MOVE THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE AMORTIZED OVER AN EVEN LONGER PERIOD? VIENNA, ADDITIONALLY, MAKES IT KNOWN THAT ITS SPACE WILL BE FOR FREE; THE ARGUMENT IS SEDUCTIVE ONLY AT FIRST GLANCE: BECAUSE BESIDE THE FACT THAT THE PALACE OF NATIONS HAS BEEN PAID OFF FOR MANY YEARS (AT LEAST ITS OLD PART), THIS DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDINGS, A MAINTENANCE WHICH IS THE MORE DEMANDING BECAUSE THE BUILDINGS ARE MODERN, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT ESTIMATES.

6.QUOTE IN SHORT, ABADONING THEIR RESERVE, THE SWISS AUTHORITIES -- LED BY THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT -- HAVE JUST LAUNCHED A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING IN GENEVA THE MAXIMUM OF ORGANIZATIONS: IN THAT REGARD, THE MAINTENANCE
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OF THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE OF WHICH THEY DON'T INTEND TO LET GO. THE DECISION ON THE TRANSFER OF THE CCD, IN THE FIRST PLACE, CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY ITS MEMBERS. THE WALDHEIM PROPOSAL TO MOVE IT AS PART OF A PLAN PREESTABLISHED IN VIENNA IS THE MOST PREMATURE (ONE OF THE CLOSEST COLLABORATORS OF MR. WALDHEIM, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, KNEW NOTHING OF THIS PROJECT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE); BECAUSE WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE INNER QUOTE HISTORIC END INNER QUOTE ROLE OF

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THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE GENEVA, ONE WILL NOTE THAT THE
MOVE OF THIS ORGAN (WHICH IN REALITY IS INDEPENDENT OF THE
U.N.) WOULD DISPLACE ONLY FOUR FUNCTIONARIES; AN ABSURD DECISION WHEN
ONE THINKS THAT IT IS A QUESTION OF FILLING VAST EMPTY BUILDINGS*

7. QUOTE STILL ABSURD IS THE PROJECTED TRANSFER OF UNDRO
WHOSE ENTIRE RAISON D'ETRE IS IN GENEVA: WHAT WOULD THIS ORGAN
DO TOMORROW IF IT WERE CUT OFF FROM UNHCR, UNICEF, THE ICRC AND
THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN PARTICULAR? INNER QUOTE
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT DISAPPEARED* CLOSE INNER QUOTE REPLIED
A HIGH OFFICIAL OF ONE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

8. QUOTE THE OFFENSIVE IS NOT ONLY DIPLOMATIC: GENEVA, FOR
ITS PART, IS DEMONSTRATING ITS GOOD FAITH TOWARD THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANS: ONE KNOWS THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYES OF MISSIONS
ACCREDITED IN GENEVA -- ALTOGETHER SOME 700 PERSONS -- WILL FIND
THEMSELVES EXEMPTED FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE TAX, AS ARE ALREADY
THEIR COLLEAGUES ASSIGNED TO BERN. ADDITIONALLY, THE RENT FOR
THE NEXT OFFICES INSTALLED IN THE OLD ILO BUILDING HAS BEEN
CALCULATED AT THE LOWEST; AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENJOY FROM
HERE ON OUT A REDUCTION OF 50 PER CENT FOR USE OF THE HALLS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER IN THE RUE DE VAREMBE
CLOSE QUOTE.

9. COMMENT: IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THIS ARTICLE WAS
WRITTEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH CANTONAL AND FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES. CATTO

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